Ufford PUNCH

Issue 344 *September 2025*

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Welcome to the Ufford PUNCH

From the Editor

Welcome to the September edition of the Ufford PUNCH.

August traditionally provides a lull in village events for the September editor; too late to cover the Summer Show and too early to cover the Bank Holiday fun. So, with a lack of Ufford news in mind, I looked beyond our village boundaries for a number of articles - please don't dust down the stocks quite yet!

Ramsholt. One sunny August evening, we went for a walk around Ramsholt and visited the lovely, Deben-side, Ramsholt Arms. If you have not been out that way for a while, or not at all, a guided walk and map is available (p14-15).

Thorpeness to Thorpeness. Sue Wright also did some walking recently, covering thirteen miles for a very worthy cause. Sue has raised £310 to date for the Alzheimer's Society through a JustGiving fundraiser (p11). This cruel disease has been, and continues to be, close to home for many of us in the village.

Iceland. I know, we've upped the distance from Ufford quite outrageously. William Atkinson has now seen this stunning island in winter and summer (but sadly not the Northern Lights yet). William describes what a difference six months can make to the people and the landscape on that volcanic isle (p17).

And at that stage, the Ufford news started pouring in …

We mark forty years of the village signpost (p6), St Mary's Parish Hall has had a makeover (p6), we have news regarding the Ufford Arts Festival (p7), we reveal the winners of the U2FBC's Brian Taylor award (p8), PUNCHLine is ten years old (p9), we have an Akenfield update (p9), a welcome to the village (p11), once Ufford resident Peter Turner provides us with a brief early history of the Woodbridge Tide Mill (p12), we celebrate three Diamond Anniversaries (p13), one Sturgeon Moon (p13), Fred Davidson's charity bike ride (p13), have a report on the White Lion re-union of the Calvados Dodges (p16), hear Tosca's thunderous tale (p19), cover a happy-ending Ufford bat rescue (p21) and finally, with many thanks to our contributors, we have our regular columns.

Have a super September.

Tony Hill

Front cover - Photo by Sophie Rose

Have you heard it on the PUNCHLINE?

Get the latest village news first via our digital newsletter 'PUNCHLine'.

If there is anything you want to broadcast, write your message and send it in Monday - Saturday for circulation to all our subscribers as soon as possible.

To subscribe, or broadcast news, email punchline@uffordpunch.org.uk

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Ufford PUNCH October 2025

Deadline for submissions: 12th September 2025

Ufford Parish Council News

Melton and Ufford Rail Crossings Closed in October

As we all know, improvements to the rail track are needed before the long and heavy Sizewell C trains can use the line. These improvements have already started and have resulted in some closures of the Ufford crossing on Bridge Road.

However, in late October, BOTH the Ufford and Melton crossings are going to be closed at the same time. The current dates are:

- Ufford Crossing – 24th Oct to 3rd Nov
- Melton Crossing – 24th Oct to 28th Oct

All traffic on the Deben Peninsula and from villages such as Bromeswell, Eyke, Rendlesham and Tunstall, will be required to divert via Campsea Ashe and the A12, to reach Woodbridge and beyond, for the weekend of 24th Oct to 28th Oct. We are informed that there will be access for emergency vehicles and running boards will need to be laid down (Network Rail staff will be on hand).

Parish Council Vacancy

Following the resignation of Dr Kathryn Jones, the Parish Council now has a vacancy. If you are over 18 and a UK citizen then you probably qualify. We meet each month on the third Tuesday, at 7.00pm, for a maximum of 2 hours. We are a very friendly team and as much training will be given as is required.

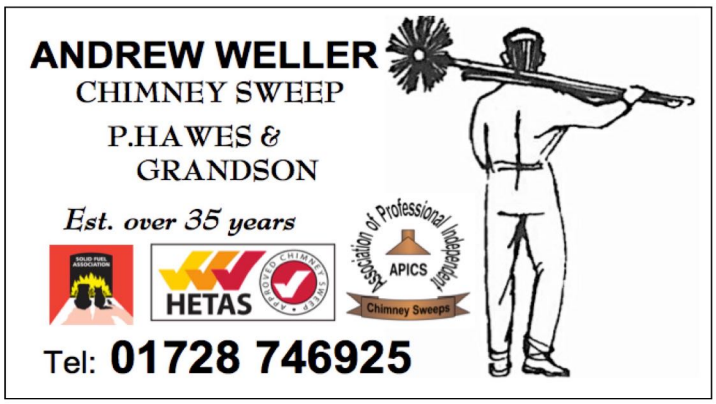
Outside the meetings, you probably need to allow 2 or 3 hours a week for catching up on emails and reading. After that, you can expand the role as much as you like. If you are interested, why not come along to the September meeting (16th September in the Parish Hall, 7.00pm) and meet everyone? For further information please contact Judi on 07739 411927.

Parish Council Grants

A Parish Council is permitted to give grants to local village organisations with a view to enhancing the lives of all or some of its residents. Ufford Parish Council undertakes this task once a year, in order to budget for the funds when it requests its annual payment from the District Council.

If your club, society or association would like to apply for a Parish Council grant (payable in April 2026) you need to act now. Please email the Parish Clerk (see below). A form will be sent to you and you must return this by 31st October. A latest set of accounts are required to accompany all applications and the Parish Council reserves the right to refuse or reduce any requests. We look forward to hearing from past applicants and any new groups alike.

Coming soon - Scary Suffolk Stories
An evening of spooky tales told by CB Jackson
Saturday 25th October at 7pm
St Mary's Parish Hall
More details to follow



UFFORD PUNCH NOTICEBOARD

Olive Cox

The PUNCH committee were extremely sad to hear of the passing of Olive Cox, who had been a resident of the Almshouses in Church Lane for over twenty five years. We send our condolences to Olive's family and close friends for their loss.

Annual Morning Market

Saturday 6th September 10.00am – 12.30pm

Stalls for Crafts, WI, Produce and Vegetables, Donations from Foskett's Farm, Preserves, Cakes, Bric-a-brac, Raffle and Live Music.

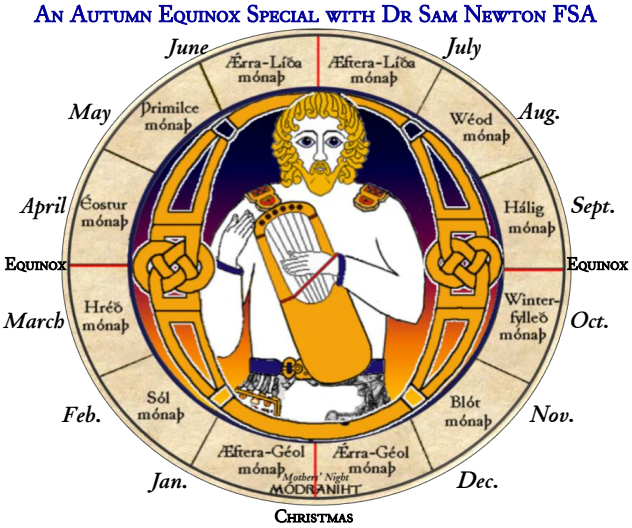
Entrance £1 including tea, coffee and biscuits

A great opportunity to visit this beautiful ancient building and support the charity preserving it.

Melton Old Church, Old Church Road
Melton, Suffolk, IP13 6DH

PREHISTORIC HENGES AND OLD ENGLISH CALENDARS

An Autumn Equinox Special with Dr Sam Newton FSA



The Old English Calendar (©Dr Sam Newton 2024)

A look at how the old farming year was measured and successfully managed in early Britain, from the alignments of Neolithic henges and long barrows to the Old English calendar.

at The White Lion, Ufford IP13 6DW

on Monday 22nd September 2025 at 7.30 pm.

(ticket options with or without tucker beforehand)

Do you Need a Grant?

The 'Ufford Charities - Non-Ecclesiastical Charities' are pleased to announce that we now have a small Public Purposes Fund, to be used for grants for people living in the Parish of Ufford. We are seeking applications from you for grants of between £100 and £500.

Photo with the permission of Ufford Non-Ecclesiastical Charities Charity Commission No 207617

We can provide grants to individuals or not-for-profit community groups in the following categories:

a) To support apprentices aged 16 years or over
b) To support land or buildings for public use such as recreational grounds, public spaces, community centres, etc
c) To support the preservation of sites or buildings of architectural merit or historic importance forming part of the National Heritage
d) For conservation and preservation of the natural environment
e) To help individuals who have suffered from a natural or civil disaster due to conditions outside of their control.

If you think you might like to apply, please visit our website for application forms, criteria, and terms and conditions.
https://ufford-suffolk-pc.gov.uk/our-village/ufford-charities/non-ecclesiastical/

Return your completed application form to ufford.charities@gmail.com by the closing date 30th September 2025 for consideration in October 2025. Deadlines for further funding rounds in 2026 are to follow.

Save the Date! Bingo and Band for MND

All proceeds from the evening of **Saturday 11th October** will go to Nick Apperley's three Motor Neurone Disease charities. Tickets from the White Lion.

Forty Years of the Village Signpost

Many of us now pass the village signpost at the bottom of the Avenue with barely a glance. However, Sophie's front cover revealed not only its sunset shadow, but also the date 1985; we went back forty years to find out its background.

We can thank the Ufford Women's Institute for our village signpost, it being their community project for 1985. Suggested by Stella Pugh, £800 was raised from over a year's worth of events to fully fund the construction and erection of the signpost by Hector Moore of Brandeston Forge.

In the foreground, Stella Pugh (left) and Pamela Alderson (right). Photo courtesy of David Findley from the Ufford Archive.

A village competition for the sign's design was won by John Reid of Church Lane. The Suffolk Punch horse, first foaled in Ufford by Thomas Crisp in 1768, stands above a crown representing King Wuffa on the waves of the River Deben. The structure is date stamped AD 1985.

It was not until Saturday 14th June 1986 that the signpost was unveiled. Approximately 200 villagers, two folk musicians, two donkeys and two Shetland ponies were in attendance! A speech by Kate Dingley, the president, was followed by the unveiling by Pamela Alderson, one of the village's oldest residents and a former WI president. Father John Drew, Rector of St Mary's Church gave the blessing as a quarter peel of the church bells rang out.

WI News reported that 'After the unveiling, members retired to Mrs Dingley's garden for refreshments' and that 'the Ufford WI can feel proud of the fact that they organised everything themselves.'

In 1997, the Ufford PUNCH magazine adopted the sign as its front cover logo, and that logo remains in place 343 editions later.

Forty years on, and despite an (unsuccessful) attempt in 2010 to move the signpost to the top of the Avenue near the Yarmouth Road, the signpost stands as a symbol of what community spirit can achieve.

Tony Hill - with thanks to Marion Barnes

The St Mary's Parish Hall Redecoration Project

St Mary's Parish Hall was probably built by Boulton and Paul Ltd of Norwich and delivered in kit form during the 1920s. Large numbers of village halls were built throughout the country during this period to foster social cohesion following the devastating legacy of WW1. The hall has been a central feature of Ufford since that time.

About ten years ago the building was externally re-clad and extended to incorporate a new kitchen and toilets. The main hall area, however, has not been decorated for many years and was looking very unloved.

A team of four local friends kindly offered to help me with this project: David Beard, Keith Bennett, Chris Goodall and Douglas Paxton. We had possession of the hall for three weeks in August. However, the magnitude of the task was not fully appreciated until the space was cleared and the condition of the walls and ceiling were fully assessed. There were numerous holes, splits, gaps and bodges all over the place. Even a copy of a 1988 Sunday Sport plugging a large gap in the ceiling!

Undeterred the team began work and have been magnificent, repairing, rubbing down, using 30 tubes of caulking in the gaps and applying 40 litres of paint. This was no small task but after much blood, sweat and

The redecoration team - Chris, David, Barry, Douglas and Keith

numerous cups of coffee and chocolate biscuits we managed to complete the refurbishment and decoration on time. Hall users can now enjoy the transformed ambiance and improved functionality (the windows now open and close!) of our much-loved Parish Hall.

The very tired old floral curtains have also been removed so we are looking for a new soft furnishings team to organise replacement blinds! **Barry Searle**

Ufford Arts Festival Survey

In 2018 and 2023, the village enjoyed weekend-long arts festivals that embraced as many of the arts as the committee could fit into the village's community spaces. These photos will remind you of some of the events.

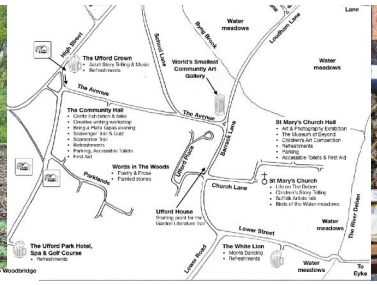
The team that developed the festival are now thinking about a future Arts Festival but would like to seek your views and ideas. It would be much appreciated if villagers could respond to the short survey below.

You can either (a) fill in this paper copy and drop it in a collection box at the Crown, the White Lion, St Mary's Parish Hall or the Community Hall, or (b) go online and complete the survey at https://s.surveyplanet.com/n25vrt7w or use the QR code.

PLEASE COMPLETE BY THE 16TH SEPTEMBER DEADLINE

1. Would you like there to be another Ufford Arts Festival? Yes ☐ No ☐
   … if no, please answer question 2
2. Can you tell us why you do not want another Ufford Arts Festival?
3. Would you be willing to volunteer some time to help the team?
   Small or large amounts of time would be gratefully received. Yes ☐ No ☐
4. If yes, please supply your name and an email address or mobile phone number.
   We will only store the information provided for the development of the Ufford Arts Festival. Data will not be shared with any third party not connected with the Ufford Arts Festival.
5. What events would you like to see again?
   Scarecrow Trail ☐ Story Telling ☐ Literature Tour ☐ Community Meal ☐
   Arts and craft exhibitions with opportunities to participate ☐ Theatre ☐
   Interactive experiences ☐ Concerts ☐ Children's creative activities ☐
6. Do you have an idea for an event?

Many thanks from the Ufford Arts Festival Team



The Annual U2FBC (Ufford 2 Friendly Bridge Club) BBQ and Bridge competition

Winners Bernard and Sheila Priestley were presented with their Brian Taylor awards by Lyn Taylor (Mike Fisher, Lyn Taylor, Sheila and Bernard Priestley). Below, the U2FBC.

The U2 Friendly Bridge Club Roll of Honour

2015 Bernard Priestley and Lorraine Sankey
2016 Bernard Priestley and Lorraine Sankey
2017 Bernard Priestley and Ros Smith
2018 Bernard Priestley and Val White
2019 Di Lusardi and Lyn Taylor
2020 Liz and David Goodwin + Alan House and Lorraine Sankey (duplicate played)
2021 Val White and Peter Booth-Smith
2022 Linda Packard and Mike Kennedy
2023 Val Green and Bernard Priestley
2024 Veronica Falconer and John Tinkley
2025 Bernard and Sheila Priestley

The U2FBC was formed twelve years ago by Lyn and Brian Taylor, and is currently run by Ian Morgan and Adrian Smith. In 2015, the U2FBC Brian Taylor award was created in memory of Brian for the winners of the competition held each year after the annual BBQ. Brian collected paperweights; so the club commissioned two glass ones engraved with Brian's name and U2FBC, to be awarded to those winners.

This year's annual BBQ was held on the 16th July with a record attendance of forty. All of the club contributed to the organisation: salads, BBQ grilling and strawberry hulling. Pimm's was served on arrival and after the sumptuous BBQ and strawberries and cream - battle commenced! The hands were prepared by Mike Fisher who directed and scored the event. **Adrian Smith**

PUNCHLine - Still Going Strong, Ten Years On

Every issue, under the Editorial on page 3, we ask you the same question 'Have you heard it on the PUNCHLine?'
We have been made aware recently that some people have not, in fact they didn't have a clue that it existed!
If you would like to subscribe, email punchline@uffordpunch.org.uk and Judi Hallett or Tig Thomas will add you to the 'Line.

Judi Hallett, the Clerk to Ufford Parish Council, has been the co-guardian of PUNCHLine since its inception in February 2015. The joint venture between the UPC and the PUNCH magazine has been sharing community news now for over ten years.

Judi worked alongside Lyn Taylor from 2015 to 2024, and now shares responsibility with Tig Thomas (and Nicky Scott, who provides cover for both) on alternate days from Monday to Saturday. Lyn Taylor kindly explains how PUNCHLine can help you and recalls a particularly satisfying conclusion to one PUNCHLIne. **TH**

'PUNCHLine is our village digital news stream that is used for any item that was too late to be included in your current issue of the Ufford PUNCH, or if it is an item that is too urgent to wait until the next issue hits your letterbox. It is also a platform for any of you to send in your own personal messages - maybe you have tickets for a concert that you can't use and are happy to pass them on - perhaps you have found a bunch of lost keys – found someone's glasses case – or are worried about something suspicious happening in the street.'

'In 2015, I volunteered to join the Ufford PUNCH Committee and was very happy to be accepted, but then rather surprised at my first meeting to be asked to become the PUNCH face on PUNCHLine! It was a steep learning curve with a new computer programme and although it soon became the norm, Judi was my saviour every time it got the better of me.'

'One of our most memorable PUNCHLines was when an Ufford chap driving down The Avenue reported to me, with my PUNCHLine hat on, that he had seen a young man he did not recognise trying a garage door. He rang the police and I immediately put out a PUNCHLine asking people to keep an eye out. When challenged the young man set off over the water meadows at great speed, where the, then, owners of Timber Cottage saw him in their garden. When asked what he was doing, he made another rapid exit. Then, no sign of him anywhere … By this time the police were in the village and they tracked him down to a roof space over a utility room further down Spring Lane and arrested him. Result!'

'PUNCHLine does not publicise businesses or promote events that are for profit, other than those in Ufford that are run in support of charities. We will help publicise any other village pleasures, such as the Garden Show. We also issue announcements from our local or county councils; from road closures to the village plan, from community meetings to Deben safety test results.'

'Please join PUNCHLIne; we promise not to inundate you with emails and you can unsubscribe at any time.'

Lyn Taylor

To subscribe - email punchline@uffordpunch.org.uk

Helen's Akenfield Update

In our July article remembering Sir Peter Hall's film version of Akenfield, Helen Shand told the PUNCH that she was auditioning for a part in a new Akenfield stage production by Sir Peter's daughter Jenny Hall and written by Jenny's husband Glenn Wilhide.

Congratulations Helen! Not only has Helen been chosen for the role of Marjorie Joop, the district nurse; but she has also picked up a couple of other parts in the play.

'It's a thrill to be revisiting Akenfield after so long, and exciting to be part of creating a new and fresh adaptation of Ronnie's works', said Helen.

Akenfield will be touring Suffolk in late September / early October 2025 (QR code for details). The PUNCH will be catching up with Helen in a later edition to share her experience. **Tony Hill**

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New Faces in the Village - Meet Emily and Jack

We are absolutely delighted to introduce ourselves as new residents of Ufford. After falling in love with the village, we recently made the move and are so happy to now call it home.

We met while studying Real Estate at the University of Reading and both began our property careers in London. Jack, who grew up near Saxmundham on a former pig farm, returned to Suffolk two years ago to join his family's business. Emily remained in London but was a frequent visitor to Suffolk - quickly growing fond of the countryside and coastline. When the opportunity came to relocate, we knew it was the right time to take the leap and make the move together.

Since arriving, we've been overwhelmed by the warm welcome we've received - our neighbours have been incredibly kind and helpful, making us feel right at home from day one.

We now spend much of our spare time in the garden, which was lovingly planted and cared for by the previous owners. We're still learning the ropes, but we're enjoying the challenge of keeping it looking its best.

We love heading to the beach for fish and chips and getting out on the river when the sun is shining - it's one of our favourite ways to unwind. We're also keen tennis players and feel very lucky to have the courts just a short walk away in the village.

We're always keen to meet more people in the village - please do say hello if you see us around, or feel free to join us for a drink at The White Lion!

Emily and Jack

Walking for a Future Without Alzheimer's

On Saturday 2nd August, Sue Wright took part in the Alzheimer's Society's Thorpeness to Thorpeness 13-mile walk

I lost my mother to dementia - a cruel disease that strips away the dignity of those we love, turning familiar faces into strangers. Her journey was agonising, not only for her but for all of us who watched as the person we knew and cherished faded before our eyes. Dementia knows no boundaries; it can strike anyone, at any time, and its impact is far-reaching and not just for the elderly, but across all generations.

The experience moved me to take part in the Alzheimer's Society Walk. I initially considered the full 26-mile challenge - something my younger self, who tackled treks like the 'Coast to Coast', would have embraced. But sanity prevailed, and I opted for the 13-mile route.

My friend Andrea Pittock and I joined 700 walkers (500 braving the 26 miles) that criss-crossed the beautiful Suffolk countryside together in fine weather.

We completed the 13 miles in 4 hours, 45 minutes, spurred on by the prospect of Prosecco awaiting us at the end. Along the way we shared stories with fellow walkers and felt a real sense of community and collective purpose.

The Alzheimer's Society were exemplary hosts, offering support and encouragement at every step. It was so uplifting to hear that an estimated £688,000 would be raised through JustGiving during the day - a staggering figure that will go a long way in funding research and supporting families.

It was a day of remembrance, of resilience and hope. The miles tested our legs, but reminded us that together, we are walking toward a future free of dementia.

Sue Wright

If you wish to support Sue and her JustGiving fundraiser, please use the QR code to make a donation to the Alzheimer's Society.

A Brief Early History of Woodbridge Tide Mill by Peter Turner

For more history, visit Woodbridge Tide Mill where Peter volunteers

Woodbridge Tide Mill is the last of the few surviving examples of a specialist form of the watermill, designed for grinding wheat into flour, and is still milling and selling flour for public consumption.

We cannot know the names and exploits of all its former millers but we do know that the story of Woodbridge Tide Mill begins nearly 900 years ago, with the first reference to a tide mill in Woodbridge appearing in a parish document dated 1170, in which Baldwin of Ufford was given easier access to his mill. During the Middle Ages, the mill was owned by the Augustinian Canons of the local Priory and we can be sure that they exercised their 'soke rights', compelling their tenants to send their grain to the Tide Mill to be ground, and collecting their fixed portion. This actually benefitted the peasants, as it made it unnecessary for them to build their own mills.

Mill owners were always anxious to maintain this valuable monopoly, and the mill owner was often a wealthy man. Geoffrey Chaucer, in *The Reeve's Tale* refers to the miller as having a 'golden thumb'; a reference to the somewhat dubious practice of the miller pressing down on the scales to show a greater weight of flour, so collecting a higher fee for his work. The volunteers at Woodbridge Tide Mill today are scrupulous to avoid such practices when weighing!

In 1340, in a survey for a tax voted to Edward lll to finance his wars against the French, the tithe of the Mill was valued at three shillings per annum, possibly about £3,000 in today's money. Two hundred years later, at the Bishop of Norwich's visitation, the expense of repairing and maintaining the Mill was one, possibly convenient, excuse to explain the poverty of the Priory. Woodbridge Priory was one of the first to be dissolved by Henry Vlll in the early 1530s. The Priory's lands and Mill were granted to Sir John Wingfield, a courtier in Henry VIll's court, but Sir John died without issue and the mill reverted to the Crown.

Not many mills in Britain are able to claim four monarchs (Henry Vlll, Edward VI, Mary l, and Elizabeth l) as previous owners! But in 1564 Queen Elizabeth granted it, as part of the estate of the late Woodbridge Priory, to Thomas Seckford, one of her court officials, for £764.8s. 4d. (equivalent to 100 years' wages for a skilled miller). Seckford is renowned as a benefactor of Woodbridge and the Seckford Foundation still thrives today, responsible for Woodbridge School and the Seckford Almshouses.

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Ufford Diamond Wedding Celebrations

Congratulations from the PUNCH to a trio of couples in Ufford. All good friends, and all having celebrated their 60th wedding anniversaries within the last year - most recently Giles and Gillian Slaughter in August.

What an achievement sixty years of marriage is, and compared to today's brides and grooms, they must have all been so very young.

When talking to them about their successful unions: Giles and Gillian Slaughter put it all down to 'Friendship, family and stamina,' Rosie and Hammy Ferguson to 'Being part of a team and enjoying doing things together,' while Ian and Maureen Morgan said 'We think it's sheer luck!'

Photo - the couple in the foreground are Rosie and Hammy, next are Giles and Gillian, and Maureen and Ian are at the top.

Lyn Taylor/TH

Sturgeon Moon

When the PUNCH editorial team received the fantastic photo to your right, from village resident Clare Morrell, we were naturally furious!

Tagged as 'Sturgeon Moon,' our first thoughts were - how low have the International Astronomical Union's committee stooped, in naming a moon after a divisive ex-leader of the Scottish National Party?

Imagine our embarrassment, when we were alerted to the fact that its name was actually derived from the abundance of sturgeon found in the Great Lakes of North America at this time of year (and probably nothing to do with the IAU)

However, the August Sturgeon Moon is definitely the last full moon of Summer. According to the BBC Sky at Night magazine, the next full moons are named as: September - Corn Moon, October - Harvest (or Hunter's) Moon, November - Beaver Moon, December - Cold Moon, January - Wolf Moon, February - Snow Moon, March - Worm Moon, April - Pink Moon, May 1st = Flower Moon, May 31st - Blue Moon, June - Strawberry Moon and July - Buck Moon … we have all learnt something now! **TH**

Fred Davidson's Ufford to Sennen Charity Bike Ride

When Nick Apperley set off last June on his epic 444-mile long Suffolk to Sennen bike ride, Fred Davidson, his neighbour in Crownfields, was not available to do the challenge due to a holiday.

Holidays are usually regarded as honest excuses for missing events. Fred, however, had other ideas and having done similar challenges in the past suggested to some work colleagues that they do it … when they were not all on holiday!

Fred continued '*We will be leaving on Sunday 7th September and arriving on the 14th September. I will be riding with a friend and being supported by two others in campervans. The route will be similar to the one that Nick took, stopping off at various campsites on the way. I am very much looking forward to the challenge'.*

Fred told us '*While our bike ride has been motivated by Nick and his team's magnificent achievement, we shall be fundraising just for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and our ride is a separate venture, but sharing the same worthy cause.'*

'We shall be raising those funds through a JustGiving account (see QR code on the left) *and any donations will be very gratefully received'* said Fred. **TH**

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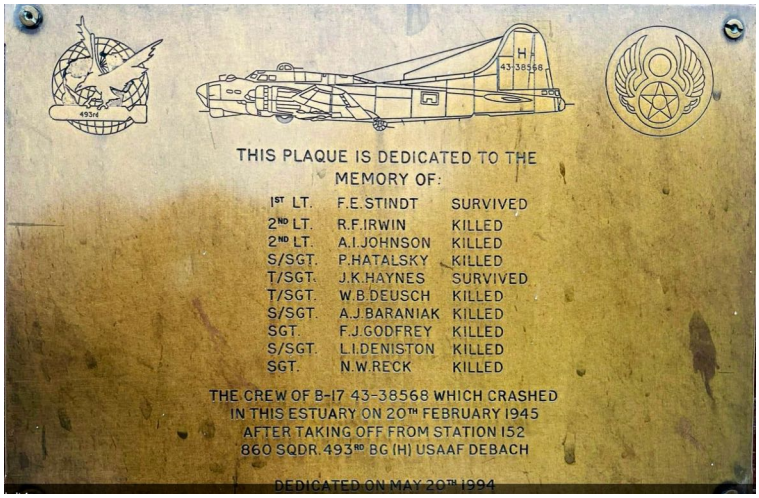
All Saints Church lies at a heady 56 feet above sea level! Just enough to give an elevated view of this part of the Deben. Norman-built, with a round tower, medieval windows and a couple of scary looking headstones in the graveyard.

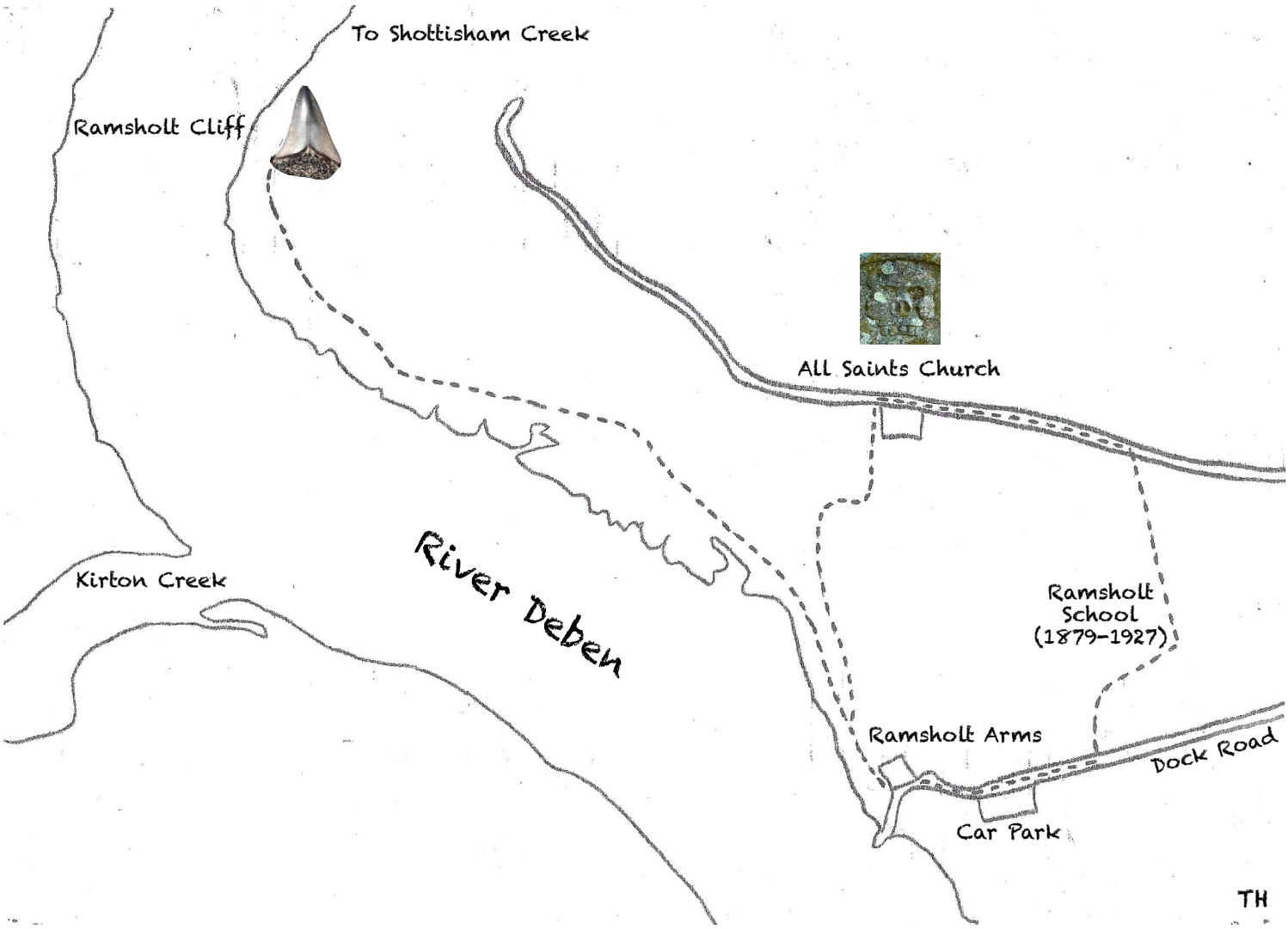


On the 20th February 1945, a B-17 Flying Fortress ('Little Davey II') tragically crashed into the Deben near Ramsholt with the loss of eight of the ten crew.

Whether along the shoreline or in the marshes, you should see a lot of birds. Depending on the time of year: curlew, redshanks, mallards, Brent geese, avocets, little egrets, cormorants, grey herons, oystercatchers and lapwings are visitors. Near the church we spotted red-legged partridges and a hobby.

This walk is about 3.5 miles long and will take less than 2 hours, and check in at the pub for your free parking. Walk back up the Ramsholt's school 1879-1927), turn left. After a short distance lead you down to the river. Anyone feeling tired? If so, turn left that you will find as the river takes a right-hand turn. If you find back to the Ramsholt Arms hugging the shoreline and spotting You never know, if you have arrived late in the day you may just

On Our Doorstep - A Walk Around Ramsholt



Our destination for this walk is Ramsholt Cliff. The rare Coraline Crag makes this the perfect place to find fossils dating back to the Pliocene period (about four million years ago!). The cliff is overgrown but the beach is where you could find a shark's tooth, a fossilised crab or a piece of coral.

The Ramsholt Arms (the Ufford Crown's sister pub) is the perfect beginning and end for this walk. Convenient car parking (for those drinking or dining at the pub, register inside for three free hours), excellent food and outstanding sunsets make this a Deben-side gem.

including stops at the church and beach. When driving down Dock Road keep an eye out for the car park on the left. Park up hill past the car park and take the bridleway on your left. Follow the path until you reach the Old School House (which was turn left again towards All Saints Church. After visiting the church, turn left and then you will quickly find a footpath that will and follow the shore back towards the pub. Feeling fit? Turn right and enjoy the mile long walk to Ramsholt Cliff and beach; yourself at Shottisham Creek, you should perhaps consider doing an about-turn! Having found your fossil on the beach, head as many birds as you can. When at the pub, consider finding the plaque on the wall commemorating the sad event of 1945. capture that fabulous sunset. *** This walk is best done on an ebb tide and in winter will require wellies *** **Tony Hill**

The Calvados Dodges Reunion

One Friday evening in July 2025, a group of friends gathered at the White Lion for a reunion and especially to meet up again with Ufford Car Rally stalwart Malcolm Sneath.

In June 1994 a group of friends, all members of the Suffolk Military Vehicle Trust, visited the Normandy D-Day beaches for the first time in three WW2 American Dodge trucks. All had recently been restored for what was the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

During that visit to Normandy the group sampled the French cuisine, many for the first time, including locally made Calvados. The trip made an everlasting impression on us all and subsequently Malcolm came up with a name for the group, the 'Calvados Dodges.' Aptly named. The group went in Dodge trucks and drank Calvados! A lot of Calvados, many saying it resembled rocket fuel.

The Calvados Dodges at Falaise Castle, June 2004.
In front of James' Dodge truck, Malcolm (2nd) and Hugo (4th from the left) in the front row, with James (2nd from the right) in the back row.

Over the coming years a number of trips took place for the Calvados Dodges. Malcolm and his son Hugo were major players in organising trips to the WW2 battlefields of Normandy, Holland and to celebrate 'La Liberation de Bethune' in Northern France. Sadly, 2004 was their last trip as a group for the 60th D-Day anniversary and Malcolm and Hugo had t-shirts printed. As you can see from the old and new photos, most of us are wearing our prized shirts … although a little tight on some!

White Lion reunion, July 2025 - Photo taken by Kevin Young

At the Ufford rallies, many of the group would attend in their military vehicles for the famous treasure hunts around the villages and pubs that Malcolm had arranged. Malcolm was, and still is, the kingpin of the group with his dry and priceless sense of humour. His passion for old vehicles has rubbed off onto his son Hugo and now his grandson Harry.

It was so special for the group to meet up, reminisce, look through old photos and have many laughs again. Till the next time.

James Mutton

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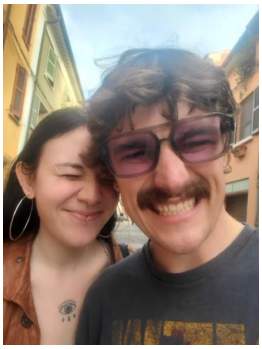
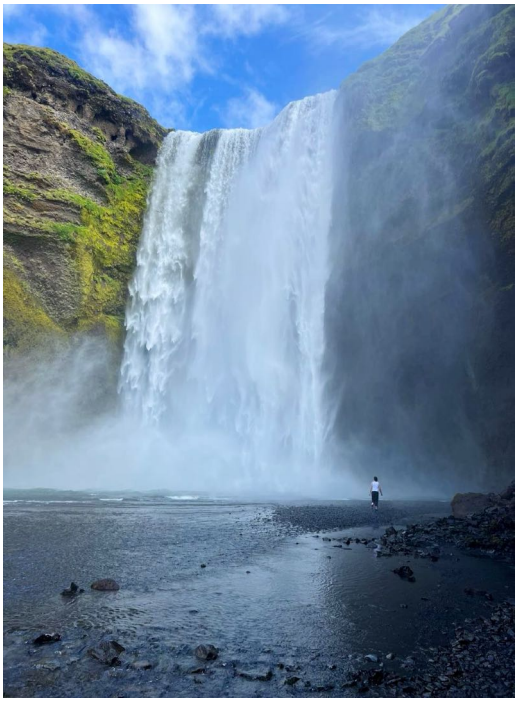
‘It’s Oh So Quiet’ - But Only in the Winter!

William Atkinson, one of our younger travel reporters, recently spent a month travelling around Iceland with his partner Herdis. William describes the colossal effect the seasons have on the people and the landscape of this volcanic isle.





The first time I walked through the city of Reykjavik, the sky was dull and drizzled with rain. My partner Herdis was showing me the ‘best bits’ of the city, and it’s fair to say I was less than impressed. ‘Here’s one of our oldest traditional houses’ she says, pointing to a house clad entirely in corrugated iron. ‘And this’ gesturing to the Woodbridge-width thoroughfare we stood on ‘is the main high street of the city – nothing much really happens outside of here’. I’d heard others singing high praises of this place, but I struggled to see why. The strange architectural decisions, green-less surroundings and generous three hours of sunlight combined, and it felt like a rather drab place to be. Herdis assured me however, that at night or on a bright summer’s day this place transforms. Of course, I wasn’t just here for the city. Now that I have an Icelandic girlfriend, it would be rude of me not to explore it in its entirety – and seeing as I’m a resident of Ufford, it would be rude of me not to tell you all about it!

The city I saw in December and the city I see now are vastly different. In winter you would be lucky to get four full hours of sunlight in your day and temperatures can easily reach minus 15. The streets are often empty, and many people see no reason to go outside. Summer on the other hand will have a full street at 2 in the morning, and with the midnight sun as it is, you’ll be wondering if your watch is broken. The sun brings people out like lizards on a hot rock, and suddenly the rouge-painted corrugated iron shines a little more in your eyes. It really is the people that make this place, and they are quite the partiers when they choose. One in four of the whole population is an artist or creative of some description and as it turns out, one in four is an alcoholic - a truly exceptional number for both, but why? Of the friends I’ve made here, most chalk it up to this very huge contrast in season – Light and Dark, Manic and Depressive. There’s such a build-up of emotion over the year, and it needs to be expressed in some way. I suppose we can thank the earth’s tilt for Bjork. Once the city came out of hibernation, I could finally relate to its charm – candid, lively, and persevering against the rain.

With the town painted red it was time to head into the wilderness. I was sad to miss the Northern Lights which brings flocks here every winter, or the active lava fields that seem to stop each time I arrive. There are beautiful corners to Iceland however, that I was not privy to before arriving here. Almost ¾ of the population live in the capital city area, so as you leave there, you leave civilisation. Houses occasionally speck the roadside, but most of what you see is wide open space. Logging back in the Viking days has stripped Iceland of its tree cover, and strong winds mean they never recovered. Instead, blankets of bright green moss and low-lying flowers are scattered across the landscape. Lupina is an invasive species but it too, a legume that flowers bright blue, carpets swathes of Iceland. The country is a lot bigger than people think, and every side has a distinct feel: the shelved hills of the south with its cascading waterfalls; the open plains of the north with their hidden cave springs; the sharp black mountains that tower in the east; and the sweeping winding fjords of the west.

Visiting Hljodaklettar was a last-minute decision. We nearly skipped it, but with a little time on our hands we took the detour. It was a singular experience. Entering a river canyon, you find angular basalt columns, much like the Giant’s Causeway in Ireland. Unlike the Giant’s Causeway, these columns tower high above in serpentine, aggressive forms. Faces jut out from time-worn stone, and the canyon wraps around you like the maw of an ancient beast. Looking around, I could understand how dark Norse mythology grew here. Never have I experienced such beautifully hostile forms, a natural architecture that robs you of your words. How apt then, that the name of this place can be translated into the Stones of Sound, or the Stones of Silence.

Simply, my time here has been quite the special one. If any of you are cast away at sea, I hope you wash up in Iceland. You are sure to have a unique experience.

William Atkinson

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When Tosca the Puppy Ran Away

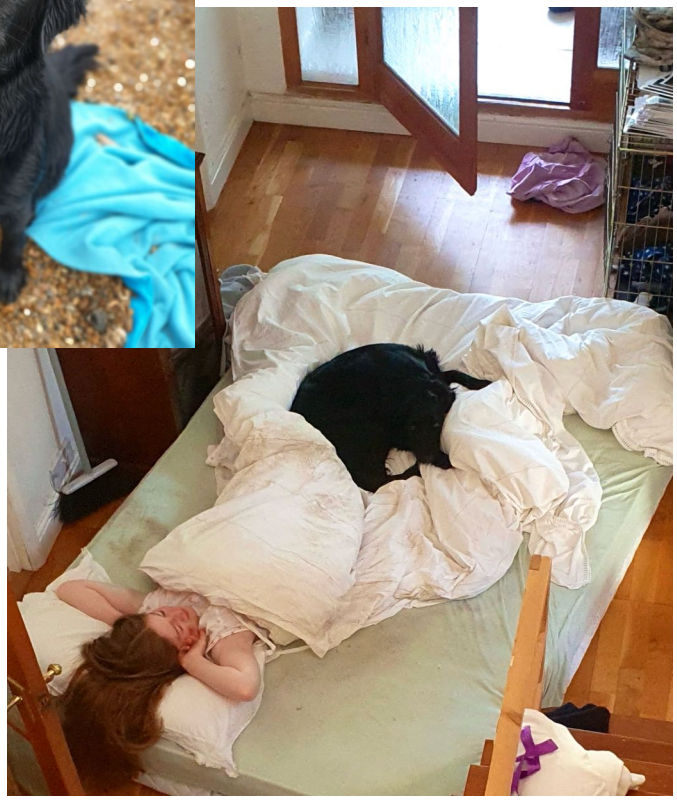
On 21st July, in the evening, a great big storm started suddenly with a huge clap of thunder. The dogs were in the garden after tea and we and our daughter Sophie May were sitting in on a Zoom call in preparation for her first 15-18 National Youth Choir course. We heard the thunder and saw two black dogs streak past the window. I rushed out to get them in and only one dog was there. In the space of about twenty seconds, Tosca our one-year-old puppy had vanished.

Not wanting to miss any important information on the Zoom, initially only my son Clement and I went out into the garden looking for Tosca. Looking into every corner and under every hedge of a one and a half acre garden was hard, but we soon started looking in the fields and up and down the road. When we realised she wasn't in the garden, Sophie and Sparky, my husband, got involved in the hunt. Sparky set off on foot, in crocs, and ended up in Loudham. He'd found likely looking paw prints near the solar farm. The kids set off on bikes and I drove everywhere I could think of. The storm kept going and everyone was drenched. Clement called us; the police had stopped him on the High Street and told him they had received reports of a black dog on the A12. They kindly offered to help look. Sparky and I did several very slow turns up and down the A12 looking for squashed puppies … luckily none were found.

I always tell my children, when something terrible happens, look for the good people; they are always there. And this is what happened on the night Tosca disappeared. I was put to good use doing all the things on social media. Messages went out in Ufford, Wickham Market and Woodbridge Facebook groups - we were blown away by the response and kind offers.

Tanita, from the village, went out looking for Tosca in the storm, her little boy falling asleep beside her in the car. Sophie and Jack, down the hill, went out with thermal imaging tech around the fields - which incredibly can see through the tall corn/wheat/barley in those fields. Sophie May's friend's dad took Sophie and her friend out looking at about 9pm and used his extensive army skills to hunt all over the area. My friend Will was out looking round the Loudham estate where he lives and works. Even the police phoned in a few times for updates.

We were advised to contact a lost dog charity Drone to Home. They have a helpline open late into the night with the nicest, most reassuring lady who gave me lots of great advice. We left all the doors open, put unwashed clothes around the field and gate, and Sophie and Sparky slept on a mattress in the front hall. Apparently bolting dogs tend to come home



when things calm down between 1 and 5am. The poor milkman must have had a bit of a shock when he delivered our milk at 1am! (incidentally we had no idea he came that early - much respect) As we had been advised, little Tosca bounced onto the mattress in the hall at 2am, covered in indescribable substances. My lovely white duvet cover will never recover.

Cue joyful reunion and the whole family waking to welcome the poor little dog. I then spent an hour standing down all the people who had been looking, plus more who were offering to help in the morning. The police also got a ring to let them know she was home.

We will never know where the puppy went. We do know we need to put up a mighty big fence around the garden as this puppy is an escape artist! Does anyone know a good fencing contractor?!

As I told the kids, something really scary happened and the good people came out to help. We are so grateful to every one of you. We've had a lovely time meeting those superstars who went out hunting, and thanking them with bunches of sweet peas. **Tamsin Anderson**

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Nature Notes by Chris Reading (christopher.reading@icloud.com)

We are very lucky to be living in this beautiful part of East Anglia, with so many interesting places to visit and enjoy. I could expand on this topic but as this piece is supposed to be about nature (else Nicky will tell me off), I shall focus on one of my favourite places: the RSPB nature reserve at Minsmere.

It's an amazing location with an abundance of waterfowl including ducks, geese, and waders – but also raptors such as marsh harriers and buzzards. In the summer, you can see sand martins whizzing around the sandy cliffs near the visitor centre. In the scrub beneath the cliffs, you might catch sight of an adder. You will certainly see grey heron and if you're lucky, you might see its rare cousin, the bittern. If you are very lucky, you might glimpse an even rarer cousin, the purple heron.

I enjoy visiting the reserve with my good friends Patrick Barnes and Samantha Summers. We have a tacit agreement: I pretend to know what I'm talking about, and they pretend to believe me. Although Patrick still refuses to believe I'm Welsh. On one memorable occasion, we saw a purple heron within ten minutes of arriving at a hide – much to the chagrin of our fellow birders, who had been waiting hours to see it. As well as the wildlife, they have an excellent café and helpful staff. This is a good day out for all the family and right on our doorstep.

Photo: Courtesy of John Richardson

Nature Knowledge: The oxlip, with its distinctive five-petal yellow flowerhead, is a rare and ancient flower, found only in small woodlands in East Anglia, mainly in Suffolk. In 2002 it was designated as the county flower of Suffolk. Shakespeare was a fan and included it in a speech by Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* –

'I know a bank where the wild thyme blows
Where the oxlip and nodding violet grows
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine…'

A Bat in Need

The day after Ozzy Osbourne's death, Sophie Rose of
The Avenue just happened to find a dazed and injured bat!

On a recent dog walk near the East Suffolk Council offices, I came across a small, injured bat lying on the path.

A kind council employee brought out a printer paper box so I could gently take him home. Once there, I kept him in the dark and quiet, and offered a little water using a clean paintbrush.

I called the National Bat Helpline on **0345 130 0228**, and they gave me excellent advice on how to care for him until a local rescuer could collect him. The helpline put me in touch with Suffolk Bat Rescue, a volunteer-run organisation. They then passed on contact details for Duncan, our nearest rescuer based in Martlesham.

Photo: Sophie Rose

Duncan arrived a couple of hours later and confirmed the bat was a young male pipistrelle, probably about a year old, with a damaged toe - more serious for a bat than it sounds. The injury may have come from a cat or a fall; it's hard to know.

Despite his delicate state, Ozzy was very cute, and I genuinely enjoyed nursing him. I hope to see him flying over our skies again soon.

So, if you ever find a bat in trouble and you don't know where to turn; the National Bat Helpline is a great place to begin.

Sophie Rose

Update - Ozzy has recovered and was released into a bat-friendly environment last week.

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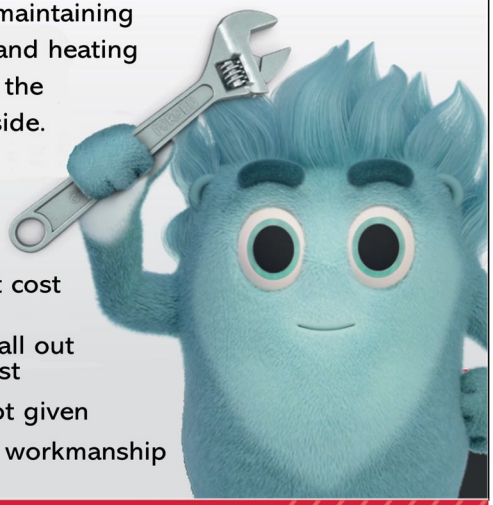

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Garden Notes by Nikk Slowey

Nikk Slowey is an instructor in horticulture at Suffolk Rural College in Otley

A Season of Growth:
Celebrating the Success of my learners

As the long summer days stretch out before us and the college campus grows quieter, it's a time of reflection and celebration. Another academic year has drawn to a close, and I'm delighted to share that our RHS Level 2 Practical learners at Suffolk Rural have completed their studies - and they've done so with exceptional results.

Watching a group of individuals grow in confidence, skill, and passion over the course of the year is one of the greatest privileges of my role as a horticulture instructor. From the early days of nervously handling secateurs and mastering plant identification, to confidently designing borders, propagating with precision, and discussing soil science over a cup of tea - it has been a journey rich in learning and laughter.

What makes this year particularly special is the diversity of paths my students are now taking. One is thriving in a local plant nursery, getting hands-on experience with propagation and plant care on a commercial scale. Several have taken up volunteering roles in the stunning grounds of nearby stately homes, where they are learning from experienced head gardeners and giving back to our shared heritage. Others are bravely venturing into self-employment - setting up gardening and maintenance businesses in their local communities just like me, whilst one particularly dedicated student has gone on to join a horticultural research team, contributing to the future of sustainable plant science.

Seeing them step into the world of horticulture fills me with a mixture of pride and emotion. As any teacher will tell you, we pour ourselves into our work - not just

Jill Cawthorne (Ex-student), Olga Skavos (Head Gardener at Crow's Hall) , April Bailey (Ex-student) and Nikk Slowey

teaching techniques, but nurturing a belief in what's possible. To see that belief take root and blossom in real careers is incredibly moving.

Horticulture is not just a job - it's a vocation, a relationship with the land, with people, and with time itself. It takes patience, resilience, creativity, and care. And it brings great reward. Each one of my students has embraced this wholeheartedly, and I couldn't be more proud of them.

So as you walk through a local garden, visit a nursery, or admire the care taken in a stately home's borders, you might just encounter one of these budding artists. They are the future of horticulture and it's in excellent hands.

Here's to new beginnings, and to the green-fingered talent now blooming across our region. **Nikk Slowey**

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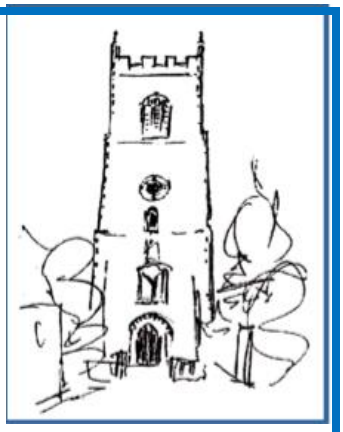
Church Wardens of Ufford: Karen Eyres T: 01394 460455
David Perfect T: 01394 460363



September is a month of change with a sense that, when September arrives, the holidays are over: students return to a new year of studies or a new institution; shops turn their attention to Hallowe'en and Christmas. Some will look forward to the future in anticipation while others will look back nostalgically at the past. Such a contrast reflects the differing ways that we approach change.

Change, while seeming an attractive opportunity, can also be an illusion. Sometimes change can also become a vehicle in which people seem to be working actively to achieve something when in fact achieving nothing. In my professional life, when a new boss arrived in the workplace, they altered everything as if satisfying some overwhelming need to leave their mark. The real art of change lies in recognising areas where things have moved on and new ideas are required and those where no change is needed. To do the latter often requires more courage than the former.

The church is no exception despite the fact that, to the outsider, the opposite might appear to be true. Of course, there have been times when the church has actively opposed changes that are inevitable. One thing, however that will not changes is for the church to stop asserting that wherever change is to occur, it needs to do so in love. Often people remember the times when intransigence in the church led to hatred and violence and forget that necessary social change was spearheaded by those of deep Christian faith.

When people put aside their differences and come together in love, it is amazing what can actually be achieved**.**

In short, love changes everything!

With my prayers ***Fr. Paul***

Worship at Ufford & Melton

Everyone is welcome at all Services

SEPTEMBER

Sun 7th Trinity 12
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 14th Trinity 13
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Sun 21st Trinity 14
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 28th Trinity 15
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

LIVE CHURCH CALENDAR
www.uffordchurch.org

Food Bank donations welcome to the 'Little Pantry 'at St Andrew's Church, Melton with a collection Box in Ufford Church porch.

Thank you. **Jenny Searle**

Calling all cyclists, walkers and drivers!
Do you want to maintain church buildings in Suffolk? The sponsored Suffolk Heritage Churches Trust Ride, Stride and Drive is on 13th September. See how many churches you can visit. Sponsorship forms available in the church.

Online prayer resources:

https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/
https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

UFFORD DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

EVENTS

6th September (Sat)	Melton Old Church Society - Annual Market 10.00am to 12.30pm	
8th & 22nd September	Friends of Parklands Wood - Working Party 9.00am	UCH
9th September (Tue)	UAHG - Visit to The Warner Textile Archive in Braintree and Lunch	
9th & 23rd September	White Lion Quiz Night - Food from 7.00pm, Quiz at 8.00pm	
13th September (Sat)	Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride / Pedal & Drive	
16th September (Tue)	Ufford Parish Council - Meeting 7.00pm	SMPH
16th September (Tue)	Ufford Arts Festival - deadline for submission of survey	
17th September (Wed)	White Lion Bike Night 5.00pm to 9.00pm	
22nd September (Mon)	Talk by Dr. Sam Newton at the White Lion - 'Equinox Special' 7.30pm	
24th September (Wed)	Ufford Gardening Club Talk - 'Nettles' at 7.30pm	UCH
25th September (Thu)	White Lion Open Mic Night 7.00pm	
30th September (Tue)	Ufford Charities - Non-Ecclesiastical charities - deadline for grant application	

CLASSES AND CLUBS

Tai Chi Classes	Mondays at 2.15pm	UCH
Tennis Club	Mondays and Fridays from 5.00pm	UCH
Boules	Tuesdays at 2.00pm	UCH
Crocodile Rock	Tuesdays 9.45am - 10.45am and 11.15am - 12.00 noon	UCH
Ufford Bell Ringers	Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm	
Happy Babies	Thursdays 9.30am -10.30am and 11.00am - 12.00 noon	UCH

BRIDGE CLUBS

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Mondays 6.30pm **UCH**

U2 Bridge Club
Wednesday 10th and 24th September - 1.45pm **UCH**

WHERE?

SMPH **St Mary's Parish Hall**

UCH **Ufford Community Hall**

The PUNCH Directory

Schedule of events and classes are on the diary dates above

Boules (by tennis court - UCH)
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Bridge Classes
Mike Fisher
www.mikefisherbridge.com

Carpet Bowls
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Community Hall
bookings.uch@gmail.com

Crocodile Rock
crocodilerock.music@gmail.com

Cycle Club
Stephen Thurlow 01394 460770

Deben Probus Club
John Hickling 01728 746322
johnhickling@uwclub.net

Footpath Warden
Megan Smith
megan.w.smith@btinternet.com

Friends of Parklands Wood
Rilla Forge
r.forge.upc@gmail.com

Happy Babies
hello@happy-babies.co.uk

Helping Ufford Group (HUG)
Hotline: 07595 970139
helpinguffordgroup@gmail.com

Parish Council & website
Clerk: Judi Hallett
01394 411405 / 07739 411927
www.ufford-suffolk-pc.gov.uk

Parish Church Committee
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

PUNCHLine
Tig Thomas 07710 882559
PUNCHline@uffordpunch.org.uk

St Mary's Parish Hall
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

Tennis Club
Chris Cage 01394 461082

U2 Bridge Club
Adrian Smith 01394 461179

Ufford Art History Group
Jenny Searle 01394 460317

Ufford Arts Festival
Jeremy Eyres 07739 330398

Ufford Basketball Club
Daniel Metz
uffordbasketball@gmail.com

Ufford Bell Ringers
Kate Eagle 07765 252515
kate.eagle1@gmail.com

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253

Ufford Gardening Club
Sheila Creswick 01394 547658
sheila@creswick.uk
www.uffordgardeningclub.org.uk

Ufford Players Theatre
Jackie Wilks 01423 333167

Ufford Tai-Chi
Ray Norris 01394 383076
www.suffolktaichiacademy.uk

Ufford PUNCH
Nicky Scott 01394 460186
secretary@uffordpunch.org.uk

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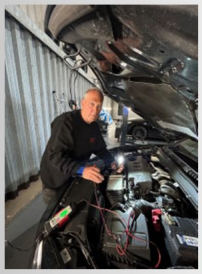

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The September Quiz

HISTORY

1. Who invaded England on the night of 27th September 1066?
2. What famous ship set sail from Plymouth to America on 16th September 1620?
3. What started in Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666?

LITERATURE

1. Which very famous murder mystery author was born on 15th September 1890 in Torquay, Devon?
2. Who was the author of 'The BFG' born on 13th September 1916?
3. What J.R.R. Tolkien book was published on 21st September 1937, before the Lord of the Rings?

SPORT

1. Which British woman tennis player won the US Open Grand Slam event on 11th September 2021?
2. The World Athletics Championship takes place between the 13th and 21st September 2025 - where?
3. The Ryder Cup golf event is being held between the 26th and 28th September 2025. The competition is between a European team and another team from which country?

TRIVIA

True or False?

1. September is the only month in the year that has the same number of letters as its month number. True or False?
2. September has 30 days. What other months of the year also have 30 days?
3. Autumn starts in September, but what is autumn called in the United States?

TH

(H1) William the Conqueror (H2) The Mayflower (H3) The Great Fire of London ... (L1) Agatha Christie (L2) Roald Dahl (L3) The Hobbit ... (S1) Emma Raducanu (S2) Tokyo, Japan (S3) U.S.A ... (T1) True (T2) April, June and November (T3) Fall

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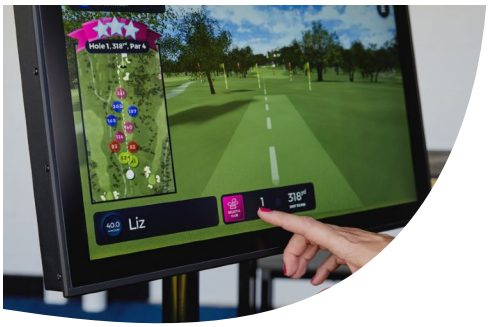

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